

EVIDENCE

Cutting Evidence Cards

There are several main things to remember as you begin the process of research.

Try to cut only cards that make arguments. There is definitely a place for informational cards, but they should be labeled as such so they're not used inappropriately in rounds.

Never, Ever cut one sentence cards. They rarely make a real argument.

Cards should be complete thoughts, and this will always mean complete sentences (cards should begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark.)

Try to cut at least a paragraph for each card, so there is a context for the author's ideas.

Don't ever cut cards that aren't what the author advocates. This includes cards where the word after the card is BUT.

Simple Guidelines for Evidence Citation

1. Evidence should always have full and complete citations. just as articles should footnote their sources, debaters should make it possible for others to identify where evidence comes from. This includes the following:

- a. The author
- b. The author's qualifications
- c. The publication
- d. The date of the publication
- e. The page number of the original quotation.

2. All evidence should be clearly cited on a brief. Cite lists which can be coded are acceptable, but BEFORE THE BRIEF IS REPRODUCED FOR OTHERS, the citation of every card should be clearly identified.

Unacceptable:

Wade 99 or New York Times 99 or Senate Hearings 99

Acceptable:

Wade, Adjunct Education Professor, Emory U, Fall 99 (Melissa, Journal of Debate Love), p. 23

3. The rules for citation don't change when citing the world wide web. There still must be an author, qualification, publication, date, and a FULL WEB SITE ADDRESS. Saying Schoolinfo.com or internet as a source is NOT acceptable. If you can't find the FULL cite for a source from the Net, DON'T USE THE EVIDENCE.

An example web site is:

<http://debate.uvm.edu/udl/udl.html>